

Report to the President year ended June 30, 2024, International Scholars Office

The International Scholars Office (ISchO) facilitates visas for international scholars who come to MIT for teaching, research, meetings, and programs. ISchO advises on immigration matters, issues visa documents, files petitions with government agencies, and provides guidance, workshops, and information on a wide range of topics relevant to the international scholar population. Pre- and post-arrival orientation sessions are held for incoming scholars and their family members. New international faculty attend a specially designed ISchO orientation. Workshops are given for department, laboratory, and center human resources administrators about working with the ISchO, MIT visa sponsorship policies, and visa processing. Additional programming for scholars and events, open to the campus community, are held throughout the year. ISchO also engages in advocacy efforts to protect international educational exchange, respond to burdensome government policies, and clarify and improve immigration related regulations and procedures.

International Scholars

During the year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, ISchO served 2,247 international scholars affiliated with MIT and their accompanying family members (“international” is defined as non-US citizen, non-US permanent resident). This is a 4.2% increase over last year. According to the most recent Institute of International Education *Open Doors* report (2022-23), MIT ranked ninth nationally with regard to the numbers of international scholars at US institutions.

Foreign national scholars came to MIT from 100 countries (the most in MIT history), with the highest numbers coming from the People’s Republic of China, India, the Republic of Korea, Canada, Italy, Germany, Japan, France, the U.K. and Spain. This closely resembles the top ten countries of origin of the total international scholar population in the US over the same period. Scholars from these top ten countries constituted 67% of MIT’s international scholar population.

ISchO worked closely with administrators in the 72 departments, laboratories, centers, and programs that hosted international scholars. The areas hosting the largest number of scholars were, in descending order: Department of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Chemical Engineering, Department of Chemistry, Research Laboratory of Electronics, Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, McGovern Institute for Brain Research, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, Sloan School of Management, Department of Biological Engineering, and Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences.

The majority of MIT’s international scholars, 1,133, were sponsored on MIT’s J-1 exchange visitor program. An additional 94 scholars were here through other J sponsors (Fulbright, Cultural Vistas, and academic institutions). There were 305 scholars in H-1B status sponsored by MIT. Twenty-four scholars were in TN status and 16 were on O-1 visas sponsored by MIT. Four hundred and fifty-six scholars were in F-1 status with Optional Practical Training and STEM Extensions of Practical Training. The rest of the scholar population had other sponsors or were

in other nonimmigrant categories. ISchO also submitted permanent residence petitions to US Citizenship and Immigration Services on behalf of tenure-track faculty members and upper-level researchers.

Based on the designation on their legal immigration documents, 71% of international scholars were men and 29% were women. International postdoctoral fellows and postdoctoral associates accounted for 65% of MIT's total postdoc population. International visiting scientists, visiting scholars, visiting engineers and visiting professors made up 47% of MIT's total visiting population.

More information about the International Scholars Office may be found at <http://ischo.mit.edu>

Penny Rosser
Director

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